(c) To encourage export of leather products, Government has taken a number of promotional measures which inter-alia include

(1) duty free impoort of leather in raw, semi finished from to supplement domestic availability of leather,

(ii) impoort of other raw materials, consumables, accessones, chemicals and capital goods with cooncessional duties

(iii) strengthening design and develop ment programmes,

(iv) augmenting man power training both within the country or outside,

(v) establishing industrial estates and promoting co mmon facility centres and

(vi) improving quality of Indian leather products and making them more competitive in the world market

(d) and (e) The Government policy is to progressively displace the exports of raw materials by value-added leather products and towards this end, exports of raw hides and skins and semi-finished leather have already been banned Export of finished leather, though allowed at present, is subject to an export duty of 10%

Marger of AFCL with NABARD

4994 SHRI MOHAN RAWALE Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether vanous coommittles set up by the Union Gopvernment from time to time have suggested that the Agricultural Finance Corporation Limited be converted into a subsidiary of the National Bank for Agricultural and Rural Development to ensure bettter results in the field of agriculture and rural development,

(b) whether any decision has since been taken,

(c) if so the details th reof and,

(d) if not, the reasons therefore and the time by which the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) (a) to (c) The role of Agricultural Finance Corporation Ltd (AFC) was received by the Commitee to Roview Arrangement for Institutional Credit for Agriculture and Rural Development (CRAFICARD) in 1981 The Committee had recommended the continuance of AFC as an independent consultancy organisation with close links with the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) A F C continues o be an autonomous body, providing consultancy services both in India and abroad and carrying out its activities in an objectrive manner, as an independent organisation

(d) In view of the above, the quuestion does not anse

[Translation]

Patrolling Boats In EEZ

4995 SHRI MUMTAZ ANSARI
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state

(a) the total area of the Exclusive Economic Zone,

(b) the estimated number of patrolling boats required to keep vigil in this area,

(c) the number of boats which are in operation at present, and